

News Reuse

GRESHAM RECYCLING AND WASTE PREVENTION NEWS

READY TO RECYCLE:

Gresham's Earth Day Collection Event is April 18

The City's 17th Annual Earth Day Recycling Collection Event, free for Gresham and Wood Village residents, will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 18 in the Gresham City Hall parking lot at 1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway.

The event takes place rain or shine.

It's geared toward household waste. No commercial items, please. The exception is fluorescent bulbs and tubes. Businesses can drop off up to 30 lights.

Calling all volunteers! We need 100. Please call or check the website for information by April 10. 503-618-2518 and GreshamOregon.gov/EarthDay

Thanks to event partners AccuShred NW, Total Reclaim and EcoLights.

 **Metro** | *Making a great place*

2015 COLLECTION ITEMS AND RULES

- Paper for shredding.
- Block Styrofoam.
- Fluorescent bulbs and tubes.
- Batteries.
- Cell phones.
- Bulky, rigid plastics.
- Plastic bags.
- **New this year!** Non-working small appliances and electronics.

Recycling event rules:

- One car- or trunk-load per residence.
- All plastics must be clean and dry, without metal pieces.
- Plastic bags and wrapping must be clean, dry and have a stretchy quality.
- Paper for shredding limited to two paper grocery bags or equal amount.

- Non-working small appliances and electronics limited to three items such as toasters or radios.
- Batteries limited to three pounds – about a shoebox full.
- Styrofoam must be white and rigid.

Please no:

- Bottles, cans, cardboard boxes – items recycled at the curb.
- Shredded paper.
- Small plastics.
- Squishy or spongy plastic foam.
- Large electronics and appliances such as televisions, computers, standing fans.
- Motors.

Free boxes for safely packing fluorescent tubes may be picked up at the City Hall front desk from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. City Hall is located at 1333 N.W. Eastman Pkwy.



ABOVE: Earth Day volunteers carefully package recycled fluorescent tubes and lights at the event. Fluorecents contain harmful chemicals, including mercury, but they also contain useful materials, such as steel and aluminum. In 2014, residents and businesses recycled 16,448 feet of fluorescents.



City of Gresham photos

ABOVE: The City collects clean plastic bags as well as large, hard plastics such as lawn chairs and kiddie pools – materials that can't be recycled curbside.

LEFT: Batteries are one of the common-yet-difficult to recycle items residents may drop off for free during the City's 17th annual Earth Day Recycling Collection Event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18. In 2014, residents recycled 3,364 pounds of batteries.



Feed your garden with compost

This spring, try backyard composting – leaves, grass, yard debris, vegetable scraps. It's good for the garden, and easier than you think.

Fallen leaves and food scraps are great ingredients for compost. Leaves are a “brown” carbon-rich material, and fruit and vegetable waste is a “green” nitrogen-rich material.

Layering green and brown material, and turning it regularly to let oxygen enter, helps speed up the composting process. Chopping yard debris into smaller pieces and running over leaves with a lawn mower will also shorten composting time.

Find a spot in your yard that will allow for a pile, bin or tumbler.

If you're looking for the right compost bin, check the nearest home improvement store. Stores usually have several options that can get you started. If you're making a pile, try one about 3 feet square and 3 feet high – a size that will help maintain heat generated throughout the winter. Be sure to turn it properly as needed.

To prevent unwanted odors and pests, do not include any meat, fish, bread, oil, dairy or pet waste. Be sure to bury food waste in the middle of the pile, and maintain a ratio of about two parts brown to one part green.



JDurham/Morguefile.com

For more tips on natural gardening and composting, visit OregonMetro.gov/Garden

A second helping: From scraps to savings

Plate to Power is a City program that transforms commercial food scraps destined for the landfill into renewable energy.

Dozens of restaurants, schools and grocery stores throughout Gresham are participating. Join us!

The program has these benefits:

- **Free collection containers**, signs and training.
- **A food scrap hauling rate** that's 20 percent lower than garbage.
- **Heightened credibility** with eco-conscious consumers.
- **Promotion in Plate to Power advertisements** and other free publicity.

Plate to Power staff is available to explain the program and evaluate the potential operational and financial impacts at your business. Schools can work with Plate to Power staff to create a program students will love.

Contact the City of Gresham today to learn more at 503-618-2203 or GreatBiz@GreshamOregon.gov.



THAT'S A LOT OF LEFTOVERS!
Plate to Power participants have diverted more than 1,000 tons of waste from the landfill.

That's:
133 elephants
67 school buses
20 MAX light rail cars

ABOVE: Outback Steakhouse Proprietor Andrew Roberg deposits food scraps for pickup by Gresham Sanitary Service.

LEFT: The food scraps are transported to a facility, processed into methane gas and converted into electricity.

City of Gresham photos



CITY OF GRESHAM
GreshamOregon.gov/PlatetoPower

- PLATE TO POWER PARTICIPANTS**
- Abby's Legendary Pizza, Albertson's, American Honda, Black Bear Diner, Black Cat Cantina, Burgerville, Cafe Delirium, Centennial Park School, Chang's Mongolian Grill, City of Gresham Operations, Early Childhood Center (MHCC), El Brasero, Inc., El Indio, Elmer's Restaurant, Fred Meyer - Gresham, Gordon Russell Middle School, Gresham City Hall, Hall Elementary, Highland Pub and Brewery, Hogan Cedars Elementary, Hoppy Brewer, iCandy, Kelly Creek Elementary, La Carreta, Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center, Local Cow, Maricos El Faro, Microchip, Mojave Grill and Cantina, Mt. Hood Lanes, Multnomah County East Building (Loaves and Fishes, etc.), Oregon Flea Market, Outback Steakhouse, Powell Valley Elementary, Providence Elder Care, Springwater Trail High School, Taqueria Rico, Taco Inc., U.S. Bank, Uly's Taco Shack, Walmart Neighborhood Markets, West Gresham Elementary School

Psssst. You might be eligible for a smaller garbage bill.

Residential customers receive weekly curbside yard debris collection as part of regular recycling and garbage services. Some customers may be eligible for a yard debris exemption from the City. If you compost all yard waste, don't generate yard debris or use a landscaping service, you can reduce your garbage bill by \$2.85 per month. You can apply for an exemption during the open enrollment period — April 1 through June 30 — or within 30 days of opening a new garbage account.

Call 503-618-2518 to apply or get more information.

Having fun? Keep it green.

Spring is the season of parties, parades and neighborhood clean-ups. The City has the resources and know-how to help reduce waste at these community events.

The City loans ClearStream® event recycling containers to local organizations at no charge. These containers are used at about 30 events each year, and help collect and recycle approximately 30,000

bottles and cans. To reserve containers, contact the Recycling and Solid Waste Division at 503-618-2518 or Recycle@GreshamOregon.gov. Or, if you are completing a street closure application for your event, just include a ClearStream® container request on page two of the form. For more details visit GreshamOregon.gov/Recycling.



Photo courtesy of ClearStream®

\$5 off the good stuff

compost, native plants and hand-weeding tools

For a list of participating stores, see other side or visit OregonMetro.gov/Gardenshops. Limit one coupon per customer per store. Requires a \$20 minimum purchase before discount. Expires 12/31/2015.

Participating retailers:

Beaverton: Farmington Gardens, Healing Ponds Farm and Garden **Boring:** Boring Square Garden Center, Mt. Scott Fuel **Clackamas:** Clackamas Compost Products **Cornelius:** S&H Landscape **Forest Grove:** Ace Hardware **Gresham:** Al's Garden Center, Schedeens Farms **Happy Valley:** Georges Garden Center, Tony's Garden Center **Hillsboro:** Best Buy in Town **Lake Oswego:** Dennis' 7 Dees **Milwaukie:** Concentrates, Inc. **Oregon City:** Echo Valley Natives **Portland:** Beaumont Hardware, Birds & Bees Nursery, City Farm, Cornell Farm, Dennis' 7 Dees Cedar Hills & SE Portland, Garden Fever!, Linnton Feed and Seed, Livingscape, Mt. Scott Fuel, Naomi's Organic Farm Supply, Portland Nursery on Division & on Stark, Tony's Garden Center **Sherwood:** Al's Garden Center **Tualatin:** Hughes Water Gardens, S&H Landscape **West Linn:** Bosky Dell Natives



503-234-3000
OregonMetro.gov/Garden

GoCart!

What to put in... when to roll out!

- REMINDERS AND GARBAGE SERVICE ALERTS
- GET CUSTOM MESSAGES BY EMAIL, TEXT OR PHONE
- HELPFUL NEWS TO REUSE



Sign up: GreshamOregon.gov/GoCart

Sign up by June 1 and be entered to win 6 months of free garbage service.



FIND IT HERE



CHECK OUT THIS QR CODE

CITY OF GRESHAM

Inside City Hall

Mayor	
Shane T. Bemis	503-618-2584
City Council Office	
503-618-2871	
City Council	
Karylinn Echols	
Kirk French	
Jerry Hinton,	
Council President	
Michael McCormick	
Mario Palmero	
Lori Stegmann	
Abandoned Vehicle Reporting	
	503-618-3081
Animal Services (Multnomah County)	
	503-988-7387
Building Permits	503-618-2845
City Clerk	503-618-2697
Code Compliance	503-618-2463
Drug Tip Line	503-661-3784
East Metro Mediation	
	503-618-3247
Emergency Preparedness	
	503-618-2567
Fire Non-Emergency	
	503-823-3333
Graffiti Information and Reporting	
	503-618-3089
Neighborhood Associations	
	503-618-2482
NET (Neighborhood Enforcement Team)	
	503-618-2638
Neighborhood Watch/Ready	
	503-618-2567
Parks Reservations	503-618-2300
Passport Information	
	503-618-2619
Planner on Duty	503-618-2780
Police Non-Emergency	
	503-823-3333
Rental Housing Inspection Hotline	
	503-618-2248
Road Maintenance Hotline	
	503-618-2888
Streets, Signs, Signals and Potholes	
	503-618-2626
Utility Billing	
	503-618-2373
City of Gresham	
	503-661-3000
1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway	
Gresham, Oregon 97030	
City Employee Emails	
First.Last@GreshamOregon.gov	

GRESHAM is produced quarterly by the City of Gresham for its residents. Questions, comments and suggestions should be directed to Wendy Lawton at 503-618-2247, or Wendy.Lawton@GreshamOregon.gov Issues are available for viewing at GreshamOregon.gov. The information in this newsletter is current as of the publication date. Call the City at 503-661-3000 to verify meeting dates and status of events. © City of Gresham